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societies formed under it. This scheme which is applicable to the whole State of Madras has already been extended to the Tiruchirappalli district. Besides this scheme, certain schemes have been formulated for the development of handloom industry in this State with the cess fund made available by the Government of India. They provide among others for the admission of 40,000 weavers in newly organized co-operative societies and 10,000 weavers in the existing societies. Loans towards share capital of each weaver who is admitted and towards working capital required for running the societies for all 50,000 weavers will be granted and a subsidy will also be given towards the cost of staff required for organizing and supervising the societies. The scheme will be put into operation shortly. The claims of the weavers in the Tiruchirapalli district for admission in the co-operative societies organized under the schemes will be duly considered.

"(b) It was not found necessary to form new societies in the Tiruchirappalli district under the relief scheme. But eight of the existing weavers' co-operative societies in the district were permitted to work the relief scheme, out of which only one society is working the scheme.

"(c) Does not arise."

Compensation for acquiring lands for the Lignite Project, Neiveli.

* 176 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the total amount of public money spent towards compensation for acquiring the lands for the Lignite Mines, Neiveli, South Arcot district, right from the beginning up to 1st October 1953?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"A sum of Rs. 13,418–13–0 has been spent towards compensation for acquiring the lands for the lignite projects from the beginning up to 1st October 1953."

Relief to the victims of flood in South Kanara.

* 177 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state the details of damages caused in South Kanara district, especially in Kasaragod taluk, on account of the floods in July 1953, and the relief granted by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"As a result of the heavy rains in the first week of July 1953, the water-level in the Chandragiri and Karyangot rivers in Kasaragod taluk, South Kanara district, rose and the low-lying areas close to the rivers in a few villages were inundated. There was no loss of human lives either in Kasaragod taluk or in any other part of the district. There was no damage to

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houses or buildings but young standing crops on the river sides in four villages of Thekkil, Perambala; Karnad and Chemnad were damaged roughly on an extent of 20 acres, 30 acres, 50 acres and 64 acres, respectively. Monetary relief was granted in the case of deserving and poor people to reconstruct their huts. The Revenue authorities have also been instructed to grant takkavi loans liberally for reclamation of paddy fields silted with mud and sand, where necessary. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to make special allotment of 100 bags of second-crop variety seeds to the South Kanara district.''

Death of Koya Moopan due to starvation.

* 178 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Koya Moopan, his three-year old child and two others of Paniyan caste of Vailathur desam, Patiyur amsam, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, died of starvation owing to non-availability of foodstuffs near about 25th August 1953;

(*b*) whether the matter was reported to the Government through the Collector of Malabar; and

(*c*) whether the Government took any action on the basis of the report?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' (*a*) No. The deaths were due to natural causes and not due to starvation.

'' (*b*) A report has been obtained from the Collector by the Government.

'' (*c*) There was some distress in this village in the months of August-September not on account of non-availability of foodstuffs but on account of poverty among the labouring classes due to want of work. As a measure of immediate relief, the local people with the assistance of the village officers organized a gruel centre. As this was found to be adequate to meet the situation, no gruel centres or other relief measures from State funds were found necessary in this area. The situation has now improved considerably with the commencement of 'kanni' harvest.''

Periodical meetings of Prohibition Committees.

* 179 Q.—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the object of holding District and Taluk Prohibition Committee meetings every month; and

(*b*) in what way these meetings have helped to enforce the Prohibition Act strictly?